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APPENDIX

JCS DECLASSIFY / RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

DRAFT

PRIORITY
PRIORITYCINCPAC 120314Z
is
JCS IN 55813

FROM: JCS

TO: CINCPAC

INFO: CINCSAC
CINCUSARPAC
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Distribution

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Subj: ROLLING THUNDER Program (U)

Ref: CINCPAC 120314Z May 1965

1. (U) The general concept of operations and procedures
as proposed in the reference are approved. 1 2
2. (TS) The specific goal of the ROLLING THUNDER program
in the immediate future is to destroy targets essential to
the infiltration of men and materiel into Laos and SVN
within the current limitations imposed on the program. 3 4 5 6
3. (TS) In order to accomplish this goal, the ROLLING
THUNDER program in the next few weeks will be directed
against the following categories of targets, south of the
20th parallel, avoiding population centers: 7 8 9 10
 - a. LOCs - land transportation systems, permanent and
dispersed storage, materiel handling facilities, inland
waterways (to include locks), ports, and coastal shipping. 11 12 13
 - b. Military Installations - barracks and headquarters,
training facilities, communications facilities, ammo
dumps, POL storage, supply areas, airfields, and naval bases. 14 15 16
 - c. Thermal Power Plants 17
4. (TS) Strikes against fixed targets may be accomplished
on an incremental basis by scheduling appropriate numbers of
aircraft for repeated strikes, as necessary and as indicated
by BDA. 18 19 20 21

TOP SECRET

JCSM-404-65

1

Appendix

TOP SECRET

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5. (TS) In addition to attacks against fixed targets, extensive day and night armed recce will be conducted over DRV LOCs from the DMZ to generally 20° north, including estuaries and coastal islands. Objective of the armed recce will be maximum interdiction of LOCs through surveillance and destruction of military targets encountered, including rail-road rolling stock, trucks, ferries, lighters, radar sites, secondary bridges, road repair equipment, bivouac and staging areas, naval craft mooring areas, recognized DRV naval craft, and other craft which fire upon our aircraft.

6. (TS) One strike per week should be planned against a military target north of the 20th parallel avoiding population centers and the Hanoi-Haiphong area. Strike sorties utilized for this purpose will be additional to the figure set forth in paragraph 7, below.

7. (TS) An initial level of 400 strike sorties per week is authorized to be allocated between attacks against fixed targets and armed recce.

8. (TS) Request you prepare a weekly plan of operations in accordance with the guidance outlined above to be forwarded to the JCS by 0900Z each Thursday. The first plan, for ROLLING THUNDER 18, 11-17 June, Saigon time, to be submitted by 030900Z June. Plan will include all targets, estimated strike sorties per target, and estimated strike sorties for armed recce. Indicate which fixed targets will be included in armed recce missions and which targets you anticipate attacking on a single strike or on an incremental basis.

9. (U) Request a brief target information summary be provided for each major fixed installation. Gp-3.

WRITER:

LCol P. J. Copeland, USAF, J-3
Extension 74070

TOP SECRET

2

Appendix

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